

Hinchey Secured Funding from Congress to Help TSEC Bring Company to Hudson Valley

Lake Katrine, NY - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Assemblyman Kevin Cahill (D), and The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) President and CEO Vincent Cozzolino today announced that solar manufacturer, Solartech Renewables, will relocate its operations to Tech City and plans to create 100 new jobs within one year. Solartech Renewables' move to Tech City was made possible due to a variety of funding sources, including federal money Hinchey personally obtained from Congress and various sources of state funding, as well as extensive assistance from TSEC.

"Over the last three years, we've developed a strong core network of solar companies in the Hudson Valley. Solartech Renewables is a company with a bright future that will create 100 jobs in the Hudson Valley over the next year and help further our effort to develop the Hudson Valley as a solar energy research, development and manufacturing cluster," Hinchey said. "These types of targeted investments enable solar companies to come to the Hudson Valley to setup their business, create jobs, and contribute to the development of the region's overall economy. The Solar Energy Consortium has been remarkable in serving as the centerpiece of this ongoing effort, which has already had a great deal of success in our area."

Solartech Renewables' state-of-the art manufacturing facility is slated for commissioning at Tech City. The company will produce both standard and improved polycrystalline silicon solar panels. Solartech's initial production capacity of 12MW (or approximately 55,000 solar panels per year) will be operational in 2010. Additional modular expansion of the manufacturing line is planned through 2012. At inception, the manufacturing facility will start with 15,000 square feet of manufacturing floor space and the capacity for around-the-clock operations employing upwards of 50 Ulster County-area workers. Solartech's Tech City plant will be the only U.S.-owned solar panel manufacturing facility operating in the eastern United States.

"Solartech Renewables will serve as a proud producer of both standard and advanced 'Made in America – Made in New York' solar panels within the cluster of solar cell manufacturers and other solar companies developing in the Tech City complex and nearby in the Hudson Valley region," said Solartech Renewables Chairman and CEO Todd Roberts. "Congressman Hinchey and Assemblyman Cahill provide the leadership in the Hudson Valley region for solar cluster in which we will operate, and of course for the employment, economic development and intellectual capital benefits that are created and retained here in Kingston as a result of their solar energy manufacturing leadership. Without their support, our launch in Kingston would not

have been possible. We thank them and Governor Paterson for the clean energy policies, vision and support that have made New York the best place in the nation to commission an advanced solar panel manufacturing facility."

TSEC is an industry-driven, non-profit organization that provides leadership, organization, resources, and support for the establishment of a major solar energy industry cluster in New York. Hinchey helped establish TSEC in 2007 and has secured more than \$31 million in federal funding for the consortium and its partners to establish a solar industry research and manufacturing cluster in the New York Hudson Valley region. TSEC has partnered with more than 70 small and large companies, including nearly a dozen that have already created 200 jobs in the Hudson Valley. TSEC expects another 300 new jobs to be created in the Hudson Valley within the next year, including 100 jobs associated with Solartech Renewables. By the end of 2011, these companies collectively plan to bring more than 1,000 new jobs to the Hudson Valley.

TSEC was central to bringing Solartech Renewables to Tech City -- providing \$600,000 to facilitate the company's move to Tech City. The \$600,000 comes from a \$2.25 million allocation that Hinchey secured from Congress as part of the fiscal year 2010 budget to help the consortium bring in new solar companies to the Hudson Valley, create jobs and further grow the solar industry in the region.

Solartech was also awarded \$1.5 million in manufacturing incentives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) under its Renewable, Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Product Manufacturing Incentive Program. The company also received Empire Zone certification for its Tech City manufacturing facility just prior to the end of 2009. Approximately \$1.7 million in Empire Zone credits and job incentives are expected as a result of this certification. The Empire State Development Corporation is also contributing a \$2 million convertible loan that Cahill helped obtain to bring the company to New York.

Francis J. Murray, president and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority said, "Today is a good day for New York and especially the Hudson Valley region. Solartech's decision to establish its manufacturing plant here in Kingston is another step forward in building New York's clean energy economy of the future. The public-private partnership that we celebrate today is exactly the formula we need to create good jobs, attract new clean tech businesses and bolster the emerging innovation economy here in the Hudson Valley. NYSERDA is proud to play a role in Solartech's early stages, and we look forward to its great success in the future."

Ulster County Executive Mike Hein said, "I would like to congratulate Congressman Hinchey for making it possible for Solar Tech Renewables to launch their business at Tech City. This new enterprise will provide good jobs and encourage others to locate their businesses here. The needs of the alternative energy sector are perfectly aligned with the resources and talent that we have to offer in Ulster County – and I am thrilled to have played a role in Solar Tech's start-up."

Cahill, who is Chairman of the Assembly Energy Committee, Hein, and Lance Matteson, President of the Ulster County Development Corporation, were each directly and through their respective office staffs critical to the success of this project through their unwavering support in navigating the NYSERDA, Empire Zone and Empire State Development Corporation funding and job creation processes.

As part of its proprietary product development efforts, Solartech Renewables has designed an innovative array configuration that will better address industrial and utility-scale solar panel installations, and has designed proprietary configuration hardware that could be manufactured at its Tech City factory along with the photovoltaic modules. To fully implement the design innovations contemplated for these array configurations, the module bodies would be slightly modified in production to integrate with the proprietary configuration hardware.

Solartech is also licensing and developing proprietary technology improvements to "ruggedize" its products and extend service life in the field. Solartech's product development road map provides for a near term extension of warranty and service life of its "ruggedized" solar panels by 25 percent (to 32.5 years), and longer term improvements that would prolong service life to beyond 50 years in the field.